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IN THE WORLD OF LABOR.

The re-election of Mr. Samuel Gompers as president of the American Federation of Labor meets with the general approval of the trades unionists of the country. Even those delegates who favored other candidates, for personal reasons, must acknowledge that Mr. Gompers thoroughly represents the sentiment of the trades unionists of the world.

It is to be regretted, however, that the hundreds of affiliated organizations were not more fully represented at the annual convention just ended. According to the best reports on the subject, the aggregate membership of the American Federation of Labor numbers anywhere from 400,000 to 1,000,000, representing all trades and crafts. The reports from the convention show that there were about 100 delegates present. This would indicate that each delegate represented from 60,000 to 100,000 workmen, supposing that each stood for an equal number of members. Power to represent so great a number of fellow-men is considered dangerous to the interests of those represented, and it is said has been the chief complaint against the order of the Knights of Labor. In fact, in the latest case, it was recognized as the centralization of power, and led to jealousies and finally internal dissensions. However, this may be, there is one thing certain, that so far, though the organization has given no formal representation, there is as yet no sign of internal dissension.

The talk of separating the Federation into Eastern and Western divisions, it is understood, was not prompted by any dissatisfaction among the members nor objection to the executive officers, but by a desire on the part of the leaders in the different sections of the country to centralize the influence and power of the rank and file of the toiling masses.

After thorough discussion of the proposition and calm deliberation, however, it was determined to adhere to the plan of organization, believing that in "union there is strength."

While the workmen at large are interested in the action of the convention from a later standpoint of view, the local members of organized labor affiliated with the American Federation are directly interested in the decision of the organization not to remove its national headquarters from Washington. The fact of the headquarters being located here has given a great impetus to trades unionism in the District. General Secretary Frank Morrison has been very active in spreading the principles of the organization in Washington. President Gompers, too, has been active in the work, with the result that the number of trades unionists has increased to nearly twice the former number since the establishment of national headquarters in this city.

The introduction of improved machinery for making bread into one of the local factories is causing the members of the different organizations of journeymen bakers and members of the allied trades, confectioners and bakers' drivers no little concern. It is said the new machine is not only cheap, but is proving a success in the manufacture of bread. Bread made by the new machine could be successfully made by machinery, and this, however, since a machine has been invented, and is proving a practical success, the journeymen bakers are not to be troubled. A prominent member of one of the local organizations of bakers said a day or two ago that there is only one way to meet such innovations in the baking business, and that is, a reduction in the wages of labor. It is said that one of the new machines, which can be purchased for about \$500, will do the work of from fifteen to twenty men. If this be true, and there is no reason to gainsay it, it will cause a great reduction in the number of men employed at the local bakeries where they are introduced.

Nothing has been done yet in the way of making demands on the bakers, but it is believed that a concerted action will be taken shortly looking to the making of provision against the reduction of the number of workmen. With this in view it is believed that an effort will be made by the more conservative members of all the bakers' organizations to settle the trouble existing among them in order to be able to present a solid front to the employers in making demands for shorter hours of work and an increase in wages.

The action of the Federation of Labor of Chicago, requesting the trades unionists to withdraw from the National Guard, has not yet been discussed by the local trades unionists officially. Nor has it been intimated that the matter will be officially considered. A large percentage of the District militia is composed of members of organized labor, so in the event the trades unionists in Washington should decide to sanction the action of the Chicago Federation, the individual trades unionists would have to decide for themselves which of the two organizations he would support.

The ground taken by the Chicago Federation of Labor in making this request of its members is that it would place a wage-earner in a position of an embarrassing position, if the event of a riot or strike. At such time he might be called upon to fire upon his fellow workmen, who possibly might be his brother, father, or other relative. Such a condition of affairs could exist, as the subject reserves himself into the question, can a National Guard, be a conscientious member of organized labor? And should a member of organized labor, knowing the duty he may possibly be called upon to perform, enlist in the State militia?

The latest of Secretary Gage to President Gompers has been generally discussed by organized labor, especially the trades unionists, since it was published. The local leaders, however, through courtesy to President Gompers, refused to discuss the contents of the letter during his absence.

There is no lack of reason, however, it is stated, for the adoption of the resolutions to which the Secretary takes exception, and these will be forthcoming as soon as Mr. Gompers returns to the city. Mr. Gompers, those who know him intimately say, has made the financial question a special study and is well qualified to answer Mr. Gage or anyone else on the currency question. So, under the circumstances, it is safe to anticipate an interesting and instructive discussion of the subject by the president of the labor forces and the Secretary.

The fight between the eastern and western factions of the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators, which has been nearly forgotten, lobbed up again at the last convention of the American Federation of Labor, when a delegate from the united factions presented credentials and applied for admission. The two factions, one led by General President J. B. Sullivan and General Secretary J. T. Elliott, known as the eastern faction, with headquarters at Baltimore, Md., and the other J. General President M. P. Clark, known as the western faction, with headquarters at Lafayette, Ind., have been out for more than five years. Over a year ago they both carried their grievances to the executive council of the American Federation, which, after a full investigation of the matter, decided in favor of the Elliott-Sullivan faction. The Clark faction, however, refused to accept the decision, and since that time the painters' unions of Rhode Island preferred serious charges against Messrs. Sullivan and Elliott which at a convention of the united factions held in Cleveland, on December 9, were sustained. At the same time the Clark faction was represented by nineteen delegates, representing eighteen unions, while

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JOHN DURBEYFIELD (otherwise Sir John).....JOHN JACK
ABRAHAM DURBEYFIELD.....ANNA VISLAIRE
FARMER CRICK.....JAMES MORLEY
JONATHAN (dairy).....WILFRID NORTH
JAMES (men).....FRANK MCCORMACK
TIM.....GEORGE TRADER
BAILIFF.....F. MCCORMACK
JOAN DURBEYFIELD.....MARY E. BARKER
TESS.....MRS. FISKE
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IZZ (maids).....DOROTHY CHESTER
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It was thought at the time by members of the American Federation of Labor that the executive council had acted hastily and unwisely in sustaining the Elliott-Sullivan faction. Subsequent events have proven that their opinions were correct.

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